

1. A communication device for exchanging communication between user devices and a communication network, the communication device comprising:

a network interface configured to exchange digital communication signals with the communication network;

5 power control circuitry configured to detect a low power condition and generate a power control signal in response to the low power condition; and

a first processor connected to the power control circuitry and the network interface and configured to exchange first communication signals between the network interface and an analog telephone interface or a digital computer interface, receive the  
10 power control signal, and process the power control signal to lower power consumption of the communication device.

2. The communication device of claim 1 wherein the first processor is configured to transfer control to a second processor based on the power control signal and the

15 communication device further comprises:

the second processor connected to the power control circuitry and configured to exchange second communication signals between the network interface and the analog telephone interface or the digital computer interface, receive the power control signal, and receive control from the first processor in response to the power control signal wherein  
20 the second processor has a lower power consumption than the first processor.

3. The communication device of claim 1 wherein the first processor is configured to change a power mode of the first processor to lower power consumption.

25 4. The communication device of claim 1 further comprising:

the analog telephone interface connected to the first processor and configured to exchange the first communication signals between the network interface and a telephone link; and

the digital computer interface connected to the first processor and configured to exchange the first communication signals between the network interface and a computer link.

5            5. The communication device of claim 4 wherein the analog telephone interface is configured to receive the power control signal and power down a telephone line based on the power control signal.

10           6. The communication device of claim 4 wherein the digital computer interface is configured to receive the power control signal and power down the digital computer interface based on the power control signal.

15           7. The communication device of claim 1 wherein the network interface is configured to receive the power control signal and lower the transmission rate to support voice communications based on the power control signal.

8. The communication device of claim 1 wherein the first processor is configured to power down the network interface based on the power control signal.

20           9. The communication device of claim 1 wherein the first processor is configured to power up a low power interface configured to exchange voice communication with the communication network wherein the low power interface has a lower power consumption than the network interface.

25           10. The communication device of claim 1 wherein the low power indication is the failure of an AC power supply.

11. The communication device of claim 1 wherein the low power indication is the failure of a DC power supply.

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12. The communication device of claim 1 wherein the network interface is a digital subscriber line interface.

13. The communication device of claim 1 wherein the power control circuitry is  
5 configured to detect a high power condition and generate a high power signal based on the high power condition.

14. The communication device of claim 13 wherein the analog telephone interface  
10 is configured to receive the high power signal and power up a telephone line based on the high power signal.

15. The communication device of claim 13 wherein the digital computer interface  
15 is configured to receive the high power signal and power up the digital computer interface based on the high power signal.

16. The communication device of claim 13 wherein the network interface is  
configured to receive the high power signal and increase the transmission rate to support  
voice communications based on the high power signal.

17. The communication device of claim 13 wherein the first processor is  
20 configured to change to a higher consumption power mode based on the high power signal.

18. The communication device of claim 13 wherein the second processor is  
25 configured to change to a higher consumption power mode based on the high power signal.

19. A method for operating a communication device for exchanging communication between user devices and a communication network, the method comprising:

in a network interface, exchanging digital communication signals with the communication network;

in power control circuitry, detecting a low power condition;

in the power control circuitry, generating a power control signal in response to the low power condition;

in a first processor, exchanging first communication signals between the network interface and an analog telephone interface or a digital computer interface wherein the first processor is connected to the power control circuitry and the network interface;

receiving the power control signal into the first processor; and

in the first processor, processing the power control signal to lower power consumption of the communication device.

20. The method of claim 19 further comprising:

in the first processor, transferring control to a second processor based on the power control signal;

in the second processor, exchanging second communication signals between the network interface and the analog telephone interface or the digital computer interface wherein the second processor is connected to the power control circuitry;

receiving the power control signal into the second processor; and

in the second processor, receiving control from the first processor in response to the power control signal wherein the second processor has a lower power consumption than the first processor.

21. The method of claim 19 further comprising in the first processor, changing a power mode of the first processor to lower power consumption.

22. The method of claim 19 further comprising:

in the analog telephone interface, exchanging the first communication signals between the network interface and a telephone link; and

in the digital computer interface, exchanging the first communication signals between the network interface and a computer link.

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23. The method of claim 22 further comprising:  
receiving the power control signal into the analog telephone interface; and  
in the analog telephone interface, powering down a telephone line based on the power control signal.

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24. The method of claim 22 further comprising:  
receiving the power control signal into the digital computer interface; and  
in the digital computer interface, powering down the digital computer interface based on the power control signal.

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25. The method of claim 19 further comprising:  
receiving the power control signal into the network interface; and  
in the network interface, lowering the transmission rate to support voice communications based on the power control signal.

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26. The method of claim 19 further comprising in the first processor, powering down the network interface based on the power control signal.

27. The method of claim 19 further comprising in the first processor, powering up a low power interface configured to exchange voice communication with the communication network wherein the low power interface has a lower power consumption than the network interface.

28. The method of claim 19 wherein the low power indication is the failure of an AC power supply.

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29. The method of claim 19 wherein the low power indication is the failure of a DC power supply.

5           30. The method of claim 19 wherein the network interface is a digital subscriber line interface.

31. The method of claim 19 further comprising:  
in the power control circuitry, detecting a high power condition; and  
10       in the power control circuitry, generating a high power signal based on the high power condition.

32. The method of claim 31 further comprising:  
receiving the high power signal into the analog telephone interface; and  
15       in the analog telephone interface, powering up a telephone line based on the high power signal.

33. The method of claim 31 further comprising:  
receiving the high power signal into the digital computer interface; and  
20       in the digital computer interface, powering up the digital computer interface based on the high power signal.

34. The method of claim 31 further comprising:  
receiving the high power signal into the network interface; and  
25       in the network interface, increasing the transmission rate to support voice communications based on the high power signal.

35. The method of claim 31 further comprising in the first processor, changing to a higher consumption power mode based on the high power signal.

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36. The method of claim 31 further comprising in the second processor, changing to a higher consumption power mode based on the high power signal.

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